

## APPENDIX Y

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### Shoreline Phase I Integrated Document Pertinent Correspondence



**To:** South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Team

**From:** Center for Collaborative Policy

**Re:** Outcomes from the October 20, 2011 Stakeholder Forum Meeting

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**Background:** The Stakeholder Forum (Forum) met on Thursday, October 20, 2011 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Alameda County Flood Control District offices in Hayward. The Forum is convened to provide ongoing input to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Management Team (PM Team) and its technical consultants on development and implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond restoration, flood management, and public access plan.

**Meeting Attendance:** Attachment 1 lists meeting participants.

**Meeting Materials:** In advance of the meeting, Forum members were provided a meeting agenda. At the meeting, Forum members received handouts including a printout of meeting slides, a Phase 2: Preliminary Options for Future Actions document, a condensed table of Adaptive Management Plan key uncertainties, a summary of highlights from the February 2011 SBSP Science Symposium, a roster and the 2010 meeting summary. The PowerPoint presentation slides, which give more details on presentations, and handouts are available on the SBSP Project website ([www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org)).

**Substantive Meeting Outcomes:**

***1. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review***

John Bourgeois, Executive Project Manager, welcomed Forum members and the public and led introductions. Lead facilitator Mary Selkirk reviewed the agenda, which included:

- Tracking our Progress: Highlights of 2011
- Tracking our Progress: Science in the Salt Ponds
- Phase 2: Selection of project-wide and pond-specific actions
- Phase 2 in Ravenswood
- Phase 2 in Eden Landing
- Phase 2 in Alviso
- Update on the Shoreline Study
- Looking Ahead to 2012

In regards to the entire Project area, he showed a map indicating areas with the ability to receive dredge or upland fill material. The Project could potentially opportunistically take advantage of millions of cubic feet of fill, as they are made available. This is another issue that will be looked at in Phase 2.

#### ***8. Update on the Shoreline Study***

Brenda Buxton of the State Coastal Conservancy, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, gave an update on the Project's related effort, the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study, which is being undertaken with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Army Corps of Engineers. The scope of the study was revised to focus on Alviso-area ponds, because of the amount of economic damage identified in an Army Corps analysis, and because Alviso is so subsided that there are health and human safety issues. Lastly, providing flood protection in the Alviso area will allow the Project to proceed with tidal restoration at a number of ponds. The timeline calls for having a proposal to Congress by the end of 2013. The study includes two components, flood risk management and ecosystem restoration.

For flood risk management, structural elements would join two points, Alviso Slough and Coyote Bypass, to prevent tidal flooding of the Alviso area. Alternative alignments have been developed for two stretches, from Alviso Slough to Artesian Slough, and from Artesian Slough to Coyote Bypass. The alignments, shown on PowerPoint slides, vary from being closer in to urbanized areas or farther out. Attendees of an Alviso Working Group meeting in August were less supportive of a close-in alignment, as it would cut off views and skirt close to homes. All levies would tie into the existing flood control network and make a complete link. For the railroads, two options include installing flood gates or raising the railroad. The latter option would be expensive.

For ecosystem restoration, the goal would be to undertake tidal restoration through phases, using a robust adaptive management process to ensure that restoration is not causing problems. Adaptive management would look at mercury, bird populations and scour issues. The conceptual approach would be to first build flood protection, then take advantage of historic sloughs, lower levees, build higher features and breach internal levees. Phasing would be over 30 years.

The study is making good progress.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

Q: Is the precise definition the area between Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River?

A: Yes.

Q: To what extent would you be going up those streams?

A: The study has a fluvial/tidal focus. There is already flood protection on Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River.

Q: But as you restore areas to tidal marsh, wouldn't you move upstream?

A: That's why we need the levee. My understanding is that the streams have a high level of protection.

Comment: The protection on the streams is under current conditions. So the shore will move upstream with sea level rise.

Al Gurevich of the Santa Clara Valley Water District said the fluvial protections have a level of protection acceptable to FEMA. Sea level rise will raise the water surface elevation. The District believes it has enough capacity to accommodate that. However, members of the public are right to raise questions about these issues. The district will keep watching these issues as it goes forward.

Q: I thought the ground had subsided 12 feet. Is there a plan to recharge the aquifer?

A: The subsided areas do not come back.

Pat Showalter of the Santa Clara Valley Water District said the District manages the area so that there is not further subsidence. The consistency of these peat areas is similar to oatmeal, and once the groundwater is removed, the fluff does not come back. The District does extensive recharge of more than 120,000 acre-feet per year as a water source and to maintain hydraulic pressure. She said members of the public are right that this is a major issue that the District continues to work on.

Q: There was flooding in Moffett Park in the 1990s. What is the relationship there? I wonder, do I need a levee?

A: The Army Corps did an economic analysis of four big drainage areas. Aside from Alviso, two were in Palo Alto and one focused on Moffett Field. The problem with that area was its federal ownership, a federal project benefiting another federal agency.

Comment: There is private land next to Moffett Field with millions of square feet of offices.

Response: The study focused specifically on Moffett Field. Just because there is a current focus on Alviso does not mean that we are going to ignore the other areas. We hope to have a success and then move on to the other areas.

## ***9. Looking Ahead to 2012***

John Bourgeois said project managers are thrilled with the success they've had in such a short period of time. That is a credit to all of the stakeholders and partners attending, and the interagency cooperation.

Immediate next steps will include hiring a consultant for Phase 2, which should occur during early 2012. Feasibility studies would take about one year. There will be more opportunities for input as project managers discover red flags and concerns that will be brought back to stakeholders. The studies would be followed by the permitting and CEQA process.

Meeting participants are invited to contact him with questions and concerns at [jbourgeois@coastalconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:jbourgeois@coastalconservancy.ca.gov). Lead Scientist Laura Valoppi is available at [laura\\_valoppi@usgs.gov](mailto:laura_valoppi@usgs.gov).

**Attachment 1: October 20, 2011 Meeting Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Affiliation</b>
Donna Ball	H.T. Harvey
Scott Bodensteiner	Weston Solutions
Carolynn Box	BCDC
Erika Castillo	ACMAD
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition
Evelyn Cormier	Ohlone Audubon, CCCR
Maureen Cruzen	NASA Ames
Cynthia Denny	Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter
Ron Duke	H.T. Harvey
Jim Foran	SCCOSA
Phil Gordon	Ohlone Audubon, HASCAC
Jill Hamilton	ESA
Jim Haussener	CMANC
Diane Heinze	Port of Oakland
Melisa Helton	USFWS
Carin High	CCCR
Ellen Johnck	
Jane Lavelle	SFPUC
Jeremy Lowe	ESA PWA
Libby Lucas	California Native Plant Society
Pat Mapelli	Cargill Salt
John Marchant	City of Mountain View
Ryan Mayfield	City of San Jose
Eileen McLaughlin	CCCR
Stacy Moscal	USGS
Jane Moss	Don Edwards docent
John Murray	Sen. Feinstein's Office
Chindi Peavey	San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement
John Rusmiser	ACMAD
Rohin Saleh	Alameda County Flood Control
Rich Santos	SCVWD
Howard Shellhammer	H.T. Harvey
Pat Showalter	SCVWD
Kirsten Struve	City of San Jose
Charles Taylor	Alviso
David Thomas	PG&E
Luisa Valiela	EPA
Dave Whittum	City of Sunnyvale
Simret Yigzaw	City of San Jose
Selim Zeyrek	ACWD



# South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

*Restoring the Wild Heart of the South Bay*

**To:** South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Team, Shoreline Study Partners

**From:** Center for Collaborative Policy

**Re:** August 17, 2011 Alviso Santa Clara Working Group Meeting Outcomes

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**Background:** The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project/South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study held a meeting of the Alviso Santa Clara County Working Group (Working Group), a subcommittee of both the Project's Stakeholder Forum and the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study, on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Jose Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant in San Jose. The Working Group was convened to provide ongoing input and advice to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Management Team (PM Team) and the partners of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline Study) on Phase One restoration and public access implementation, as well as flood protection planning.

**Meeting Attendance:** Attachment 1 lists meeting participants.

**Meeting Materials:** In advance of the meeting, Working Group members were provided with a meeting agenda. At the meeting, summaries of the prior Alviso and Stakeholder Forum meetings; a printout of the meeting slides; a South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project brochure; and the Project 2010 Annual Report were available. The presentation is available on the SBSP Project website ([www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org)).

**Substantive Meeting Outcomes:**

***1. Welcome, Self-Introductions and Agenda Review***

John Bourgeois, Executive Project Manager, welcomed participants and led a round of self-introductions. He acknowledged the presence of Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Chairperson John Gage and Director Dick Santos, as well as Rosa Santiago from San Jose City Councilmember Kansen Chu's office. In regards to the Shoreline Study effort to be discussed that evening, he acknowledged the substantial contributions of representatives of the City of San Jose, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD). Mary Selkirk, facilitator with the Center for Collaborative Policy, reviewed the evening's agenda.

***2. SBSP Project Update: Progress in Alviso***

John Bourgeois provided an update on Phase One progress in Alviso with the aid of PowerPoint slides. He noted that all Alviso Phase One projects are completed except for the restoration and enhancement of Ponds A16-A17.

### **Island Ponds**

Vegetation has continued to grow at the Island Ponds (Ponds A19, 20 and 21), which were restored in 2006.

### **Pond A8, A5 and A7 Restoration**

The 1400-acre ponds were restored to shallow tidal habitat with new marsh. Project managers opened one of the eight gates on June 1.

### **Pond A6 Restoration**

The pond levees were breached in December 2010 as part of a restoration to tidal marsh. Like the Island Ponds, the 330-acre pond has seen rapid sedimentation rates.

### **Public Access**

A key 2.4-mile segment of the Bay Trail near Moffett Field was opened September 2010 and is seeing heavy use.

### **Pond A16-17 Restoration and Public Access Work**

Original plans called for constructing nesting islands on Pond A16. However, during the design phase it was determined that much of the mud in the pond is too soupy to support the development of islands. Under final designs:

- The 30-acre Pond A17 will be restored to tidal marsh
- In the more shallow areas of Pond A16, 16 nesting islands will be constructed
- The Project will install a water control structure to improve water quality
- Because of the marsh restoration, the existing loop trail will remain, but will be shorter
- An overlook platform and fishing pier off Coyote Creek will be constructed

Project managers are mobilizing for construction now. If construction goes smoothly, workers will complete Phase One of the construction by the end of 2012.

### **Phase Two in Alviso**

Project managers have reached preliminary decisions on the second phase of restoration and public access projects. In Alviso, work will include:

- Levee lowering at the Island Ponds to enhance restoration
- Tidal restoration at Ponds A1 and A2W in Mountain View near the Shoreline Amphitheater. Project managers are in talks with the City and SCVWD.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Q: So the loop on the outer ponds will be closed?

A: There will be a loop trail around Pond A16 and a spur trail to Coyote Creek, but the loop will be shorter.

Q: If Pond A8 gates were opened in June, is there any preliminary information on mercury testing?

A: Not yet. Sampling is underway now, and it takes time to process the samples.

### ***3. New Shoreline Study: Focus on Alviso***

Maj. David Kaulfers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with the aid of PowerPoint slides, gave an overview of the revised South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study with its new focus on the Alviso area.

He said the Shoreline Study is important to the Army Corps, as it is one of the largest investigation projects the Corps is doing on the West Coast. The purpose is to consider whether the federal government has an interest in flood risk management and ecological restoration and can move forward. The study will either determine that there is an interest, or there is not. Alviso was selected in March as the focus because it has the highest potential for the highest rate of return. The goal is to quickly move forward with construction and apply what is learned to the rest of the Shoreline Study.

Under the new timeline, by fall 2013, a Chief's Report will be complete with a determination on whether to move forward. If there is a positive decision, Congress would have to do authorize the project and provide funds before construction could begin.

### ***4. Flood Risk Management Options***

Sergio Jimenez of consulting firm HDR, with the aid of PowerPoint slides, presented the potential options for flood risk management projects.

He noted that the area has had a history of flooding and that two projects were undertaken to address fluvial flooding. The Shoreline Study focus is now on inundation from Bay waters. Objectives include reducing the probability and consequences of flooding. While the day's presentation focuses on potential structural elements, the study will also consider non-structural elements, such as changing zoning, raising structures or using flood proofing materials. The community is definitely at risk, because current flood risk management does not address the non-engineered levees in the salt ponds, as well as sea level rise.

Structural elements would join two points, Alviso Slough and Coyote Bypass, to prevent tidal flooding of the Alviso area. This zone has been divided into three alignments:

- Alviso Slough to Artesian Slough
- Artesian Slough to Coyote Bypass
- Artesian Slough

#### **Alignment Options Presented:**

##### **Alviso Slough to Artesian Slough**

- Alignment 1: Outside New Chicago Marsh and the Environmental Education Center



- Alignment 2: Along the existing railroad spur through New Chicago Marsh and protecting the Environmental Education Center
- Alignment 3: Closer to urbanized areas to maximize restoration potential

#### **Artesian Slough to Coyote Bypass**

- Alignment 1: Close to developed areas to maximize restoration potential
- Alignment 2: A more straight line through Pond A18 consistent with the Water Pollution Control Plant Master Plan alignment

#### **Artesian Slough**

- Closure Option 1: Tide gate
- Closure Option 2: Levee

#### **Railroad Crossing**

- Closure Option 1: Flood gate - would require maintenance and operation costs;
- Closure Option 2: Raised railroad - has the benefit of being passive, but raising railroad, potentially for miles, would be expensive and interrupt railroad service.

Al Gurevich of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, one of the partner agencies in the Shoreline Study, invited meeting participants who have additional ideas on alignments to communicate them to Shoreline Study partners after the meeting.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

Q: In the alignment with the levee far from Alviso, what would happen to New Chicago Marsh?

A: It would stay as it is, as marsh.

Q: In the Alviso option with the levee close to urban areas, would it block the view from Alviso to the Environment on Education Center?

A: Depending on the height, it might.

Comment: When I would look out of my home, instead of a nice view, I'd see a pile of dirt. Now, it's beautiful.

Response: We may have to make a tough choice between staying dry and the view. The view may not be that bad – we will prepare a Photoshop image of what it would look like for you to consider. We will need to look at the level of protection in relation to varying estimates of potential sea level rise. Our goal will be to optimize the levee elevation, based on what makes most sense, given the information we have today. We will have to do it based on statistics.

Q: If sea level rise turns out to be higher than estimated, would one alternative be more robust than others?

A: All do the same, with minor differences, as long as we connect the two points. Your question seems to be about whether the design is flexible enough that we could go back and build it up, if necessary. We will definitely be looking at that. The planning horizon

is 50 years, to 2067, but Army Corps guidance in relation to sea level rise directs us to look out 100 years, 50 years beyond that.

Q: Who will work with FEMA in regards to flood insurance?

A: We are working with FEMA now – they are working to complete the sea level rise/inundation map. This project will fill out that map for them. FEMA will need to sign off on the project. Our aim is to have FEMA say that we are no longer in a hazard zone.

Q: On Slide 36, Alignment 2, explain the yellow line.

A: The alignment concept is simply that it would be placed through Pond A18. The exact alignment has not yet been decided.

Q: Will you put a bypass or shortcut through Dixon Landing Road in conjunction with this?

A: No.

Comment: I live on State Street – a bypass would come right through my street, and we have enough traffic already. A bypass would make it easy for people to cut through our neighborhood.

Q: Will the design look at subsurface groundwater levels on the inboard side of the levee in regards to sea level rise?

A: Yes.

Q: In New Chicago Marsh options 1 and 3, in the event of earthquakes or severe storms, would Alviso become a bathtub? That is my concern. Which one would be more protective of Alviso?

A: The planning and design process has to look at internal drainage and whether fluvial flooding would get trapped. The water has to drain out.

A: The only way to get water out of Alviso is to pump it out, which San Jose does. Now and in the first 30 years after this project, there is enough capacity. If there was a major levee break, there would not be enough capacity. A scenario such as that is more likely to happen with the existing levees.

Q: So would the alignment that is further out from Alviso be better?

A: If there is fluvial flooding, it may be.

Comment: I would like this study to look at how various levee alignments would perform in the event of catastrophic fluvial flooding, and which would keep Alviso drier.

Comment: Alviso never flooded from the Bay, always from rivers. In 1965, they told us we had to take out sandbags or flood downtown. In 1968, they took out protection. In 1983, we drowned – the pumps didn't work. They told us that if we didn't get back into our houses within one day, they could take them. Cargill protected us and raised their levees by 8-9 feet. At Pond A8, the only way to discharge is a couple floodgates. It is not clearing out the navigable channel.

Response: That is part of the Pond A8 project, to scour out that channel.

Q: I'm with Alameda County Flood Control. Our concern in regards to sea level rise is whether Santa Clara County can isolate itself from Alameda County flooding, because the water will come in from our side.

A: We are working closely with Ralph Johnson, who represents your flood control district.

Q: We are deeply studying our alternatives, and the perspective is changing. We are dropping the levee option. We need to coordinate, because this is a regional issue.

A: The Shoreline Study chose this segment because it is the one most likely to have federal interest, and that is why we are pursuing this focus. Alameda County made a choice not to partner with the Army Corps.

Facilitator Mary Selkirk told participants they will have additional time to talk about flood risk management issues during the last hour of the meeting.

### ***5. Ecosystem Restoration Concepts***

Jeremy Lowe, a consultant from PWA/ESA, reviewed initial concepts for restoration with the aid of PowerPoint slides.

He said a key goal of restoration is to restore the estuarian ecosystem structure that transitions from subtidal areas through mudflats, marsh and upland transition zones to upland areas. Levees tend to be built in the upland transition zones, so these types of habitat are particularly needed, as well as marsh and mudflat areas. Another goal is to build resilience to sea level rise. Marshes provide not only habitat and aesthetic values, but also flood management, as vegetation reduces the height of waves.

The restoration concepts would be phased breaching at historic channels, followed by the lowering of outboard levees. Additional concepts include:

- Moderate fill placed along flood levees to provide urban transition zones and sea level rise resilience;
- Moderate fill placed as islands and deltas;
- Development of a terraced levee, which would provide the benefit of the build up of vegetation to counter sea level rise, and a gradual rise allowing habitat to move uphill with sea changes.
- A terraced levee with brackish marsh fed by treated water to help build vegetation.

### ***6. Tour of Maps & Posters***

During this segment, meeting participants were able to view maps and posters and provide input on flood risk management and restoration options by talking with consultants and project managers and providing comments on large Post-it Notes.

Attachment 2 at the end of this summary lists all of the Post-it Note comments.

### ***7. Final Comments & Questions***

Meeting participants asked the following additional questions and provided the following comments:

Q: Will the fishing pier planned for Pond A16 be open 24 hours a day? How could it intrude on wildlife, for example, could it provide an opportunity for poachers to cut shark fins at night?

A: It will only be open during daylight hours.

Q: There is an issue with non-native vegetation in the sloughs taking over historic vegetation because of the water salinity. One thought is to build islands for wildlife and let the tides come in, and completely remove the levees.

A: That is exactly the concept that Jeremy is talking about. It would occur in phases, after the large flood control levees are in place.

Comment: The fisheries are dying out and migratory birds have disappeared because there's no food. The salinity is zero.

Response: This is exactly the issue we hope to address.

Q: Why not let all the spillways operate at Pond A8?

A: Because of the mercury, we have to proceed with caution. We will open the gates wider each year. The goal is to have all the gates open.

Comment: Tom is right. There has always been fluvial flooding. We haven't seen 25-year flooding in a long time. The flood in 1983 was a 15-year flood.

Comment: Alviso Slough water is contaminated because it's not getting enough salt water flow to push out the fresh water, it is not being flushed. Pond A6 water is not getting into ponds A5 and A7. In the next two months, with no minus tides, the water will get real nasty. If you had not raised that levee by the launch, it would have flooded out.

Response: We are trying to scour the slough, but it won't happen until we can open more gates. Pond A6 is completely tidal and has no connection to ponds A5 and A7. The intake for ponds A5 and A7 is on Guadalupe and Alviso sloughs.

Q: Are you saying that the bottom of Guadalupe Slough is the same elevation as the town?

A: In some cases. We survey every year.

Q: I thought the marker at the fire station said it was 10 feet below sea level.

A: A few years ago, people were using different benchmarks for elevation, and it caused confusion. We can provide a map where you will be able to pick out elevation with 90% confidence before we start the design. We will make sure you get it.

Q: How will you model this?

A: A lot of the work has been done. We could have modelers out there to show you.

Comment: The history of the work on the river and levees has not been very good. If this is just more of the same, I'm concerned about that.

Response: No, it is not. We can get you the information. It will be peer-reviewed by other modelers. We are not saying that this is the final plan. We invite you to look over our shoulders.

Comment: On Alviso Slough, both sides of the bank are caving in 2-8 feet. We can't turn around. At the yacht club, the last .5 mile is sliding into the channel, so it's a problem for us getting out. It is dangerous now. There is one spot that is 2 feet deep in low tide.

Response: We will be seeing a lot of changes happening with more water coming in and out of Pond A8.

Q: Will there be public review for Phase 2? I'm trying to understand how the planning is separated out.

A: Phase 2 is not the Shoreline Study. You will be able to review the Shoreline Study, as there will be scoping and public comment under CEQA/NEPA. Phase 2 only includes projects that do not require additional flood protection elements. Also, there will be an additional opportunity for public input at the October 20 Stakeholder Forum meeting. There will likely be another meeting like this in early spring, because the planning team has to select an alternative before next summer.

Q: If there is tension between competing needs, which document looks at trade-offs to the ecosystem?

A: The South Bay Salt Ponds adaptive management process will be looking at mercury, migratory shorebirds and other ecosystem issues. The Phase 2 projects will not yet get us to the 50/50 alternative of 50% wetlands and 50% managed ponds. Adaptive management and research results will help to inform the Shoreline Study ecosystem restoration options. There will be an analysis in the EIS for both.

Q: Will the adaptive management elements be available for public comment in both?

A: The elements should be the same in both.

Q: Mercury is still coming downstream. Is that our issue?

A: The Project needs to make sure that its actions are not contributing to the problem. We do not want to make the Bay worse.

Q: When was mercury first tested in this channel?

A: About 2005, mercury was tested in buried sediments in Alviso Slough. Most ponds have had mercury analyses of their sediments, but that's not always a good indicator of the amount of mercury in birds and fish. Now, mercury is being tested in sediments, fish and bird eggs in Alviso Slough, Artesian Slough, Pond A8 and Pond A16. In Pond A12, sediments are being tested, but not fish or birds. Pond A8 had the highest biota levels. We are trying to see how opening it up affects those levels. Testing occurs in several locations in a pond.

Q: When was the first time fish were tested?

A: In the South Baylands Study in 2007.

Q: Do the researchers go back to the same spot?

A: Yes.

Q: Can mercury come out of an artesian well?

A: I suppose it could, if that was a source.

Q: Is the mercury in Pond A12 from a well or channel?

A: The general consensus is that it has come downstream from the mines.

A: The mercury study is a good example of the results of negotiations between the Alviso Water Task Force, Fish and Wildlife Service and others to bring water into Pond A8.

#### ***8. Wrap Up and Next Steps***

John Bourgeois thanked meeting participants for the great turnout and feedback. The input will be taken into account as next steps proceed. This is not the last chance for input. Those interested in providing additional input can contact him at 408-312-8859 or [jbourgeois@scc.ca.gov](mailto:jbourgeois@scc.ca.gov), or Caleb Conn at the Army Corps of Engineers at 415-503-6849 or [Caleb.B.Conn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Caleb.B.Conn@usace.army.mil).

**Attachment 1:****Alviso Santa Clara WG August 17, 2011 Meeting Attendance**

Donna Ball	HT Harvey & Associates
Rechelle Blank	SCVWD
Scott Bodensteiner	Weston Solutions
Arriana Brand	USGS
Betty Brown	
Len Cardoza	Weston Solutions
Evelyn Cormier	Ohlone Audubon/CCCR
Ron Duke	HT Harvey & Associates
Chris Elias	SCVWD
Jim Foran	SCCOSA
Don Gage	SCVWD
James Gorham	CH2M Hill
Sue Graham	League of Women Voters
Bob Gross	
Lonnie Gross	
Al Gurevich	SCVWD
Carin High	CCCR
Selma Herrera	
Amy Hutzell	State Coastal Conservancy
Jeff Janssen	City of San Jose Mayor's Office
Shani Kleinhaus	SCVAS
Matt Krupp	City of San Jose
Tom Laine	Alviso
Rene Langis	CH2M Hill
Libby Lucas	CNPS
Sheila Ngo	City of San Jose Council District 4
John Marchant	City of Mountain View
Eileen McLaughlin	CCCR
Stacy Moskal	USGS
Jane Moss	Docent
Trish Mulvey	Clean South Bay
Andrew Otsuka	Alameda County Flood Control
Craig Parada	SPYC; Alviso resident
Butch Paredes	Cargill
Christopher Richard	Oakland Museum of California
Rohin Saleh	Alameda County Flood Control
Rosa Santiago	City of San Jose Council District 4
Vern Santos	Alviso Water Task Force

Rich Santos	SCVWD
Jenifer Santos-Kendall	
H. Shellhammer	
Pat Showalter	SCVWD
Jim Sweet	
Charles Taylor	Alviso
Linc To	HDR
George Trevino	Alviso Water Task Force
Kirk Willard	Lockheed Martin
Sarah Young	SCVWD



## **Attachment 2:**

### **Working Group Input via Post-It Notes on Shoreline Study Flood Risk Management and Habitat Restoration**

#### **Flood Risk Management**

- Consider moving the levee back from Alviso to the railroad spur or further, leaving a buffer of bare land. Selma Herrera
- Levee alignment suggestion: For the levee concept inward of New Chicago Marsh (nearest Alviso) cut across WPCP lands along PG&E right-of-way so that wetlands on that property next to Artesian Slough (to the east) are included with Pond A18 for restoration. Eileen McLaughlin
- Is it possible to put a massive flood control structure at the Dumbarton Bridge or even the Golden Gate to control sea levels of the Bay?
- Look at criteria used in Palo Alto basin study. Need to consider changing direction of impact in regards to wind/storm forces. Consider ideas that Alameda County is looking at in regards to a landmass levee. Libby Lucas (via Ariel Ambruster)
- Alignment 3 (Alviso to Artesian Slough) is very bad from a view perspective. Alviso residents would hate that option. Alignment 1 is the best.
- Study needed. When sea level rises, suburban groundwater levels are likely to rise inboard of levees to some degree. If inboard subsurface water levels rise, there will be a resulting increase in volume of storm water runoff and severity of fluvial flooding. As climate change predicts more frequent extreme storm events, more serious fluvial flooding conditions may well occur. The USACE has a small study of this issue in Virginia. A study of Alviso-area potential for these hazards is needed with this project to allow the community to be informed and able to provide good comment for project use. Eileen McLaughlin

#### **Habitat Restoration**

- Suggestion: WPCP levee alignment at Coyote Creek. This is an opportunity to redesign the levee near Coyote Creek to expand floodplain. There is an SCVWD SMHM mitigation that will be inundated and therefore mitigation actions must be taken. While doing so, some WPCP lands near the creek were set aside in the master plan for flexible use for possible restoration. The Study should consider the overall area near Coyote Creek and WPCP lands for possible expansion of floodplain. Eileen McLaughlin
- Consider the interaction of the study area with the surrounding environment such as the Coyote Creek Flood Control Channel and residual inland wetlands. J Foran
- Please consider recreation. Keep the 9-mile loop trail around A9-A15!

- I am a large supporter of the terraced levee with brackish marsh. This is great for the freshwater use. Not sure about island ponds. George Trevino
- Ecosystem Restoration A9-A15. Consider using levee as the boundary instead of building a new levee across pond system (54). Existing levee provides an established base which is stable. It has been used in other projects within the Bay Area (Napa/Eden Landing). Also consider using sections of levees as a base for islands, they will also hold up longer due to the established base (also used in Napa Plant restoration). Good idea breaching sections of cross levee where traditional finger sloughs are located. This has been utilized within other restoration projects within the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Butch Paredes
- I believe Tom is right and that riverine flooding is what needs to be assessed in protecting Alviso -- Bay flooding of less concern -- however salt water intrusion factor needs study as well -- Think Guadalupe and Coyote capacity is not what latest storm flow intensity requires. Think a flood basin buffer inboard of Coe Levee is needed -- Please consider such an alternative in designing your ecosystem restoration and revegetation -- and endangered species habitat must be viable in continuity i.e. don't destroy present mitigation wetlands until alternative marsh is in place.



## United States Department of the Interior



In Reply Refer to:  
08ESMF00-  
2013-CPA-0002

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2605  
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

OCT 21 2014

Lt. Col. John C. Morrow  
Commander  
Attn: William DeJager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
San Francisco District  
1455 Market Street  
San Francisco, California 94103-1398

Dear Colonel Baker:

This letter is in response to a request received during a telephone conversation from Bill DeJager of your office on September 26, 2014, for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to document our position regarding the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

The Service has participated in planning efforts associated with the San Francisco Bay Shoreline study for a number of years. The Service's role has been threefold: we have participated both as a local sponsor through the efforts of staff located. The Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge; the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office has provided guidance and support regarding federally listed species pursuant to Endangered Species Act; and finally the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office has participated as a cooperating agency pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

As you are aware, the Service's efforts under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act are funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). During the past year funds to develop a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report (CAR) have been limited and requests to provide additional funding have not been met. Until recently, the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office has used the limited funds available to participate in meetings, provide recommendations regarding proposed alternatives, review habitat evaluation procedures, and provide limited document review.

While the Service is currently unable to complete a formal CAR due to funding issues, we are in support of the goals of the proposed project. As such we are providing the following comments and recommendations based on our participation pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to date. This letter should be viewed as an interim product (Planning Aid Letter) and as such does not constitute a CAR pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Comments and recommendations

The Service supports a levee alignment consistent with the Alviso Railroad Spur and the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) South alignments as described in the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report. The Alviso Railroad Spur alignment would potentially minimize impacts to fish and wildlife resources, including federally listed species protected under the Endangered Species Act. In contrast the construction of the Alviso North levee alignment would continue to isolate the remaining portion of New Chicago Marsh from the San Francisco Bay, limit the ability to restore the area to a fully functioning tidal marsh, and result in a largely fresh water or brackish marsh.

Based on our review of materials presently available, the Service is concerned that the WPCP North levee alignment would have potentially unacceptable effects to listed species. The WPCP South alignment would have less impact on existing habitat functions and would potentially result in a more comprehensive restoration of Pond A18. The WPCP South alignment may also better support the long-term management of the Pond A18 as fish and wildlife habitat by reducing management costs and minimizing human disturbance as a result of creating a larger intact habitat area. Furthermore, the WPCP South alignment has been identified in the Service's draft Tidal Marsh Recovery Plan as providing habitat functions (i.e., high marsh refugia) which would help contribute to the recovery of salt marsh harvest mouse, California clapper rail, and snowy plover.

The Service recommends that levee construction be paired with an extended bench/ecotone (i.e. sloped levees) to provide for upland refugia habitat for terrestrial habitat. Furthermore these levees should not be subject to the Corps vegetation on levees policies (Corps Circular No. 1110-2-583, dated 30 April 2014) in order that these levees provide the upland refugia they are being designed to support.

The Service recommends that additional studies be completed to fully evaluate the proposed project's effects and mitigation needs due to the construction and maintenance of the proposed levees. While the Corps has completed a Combined Habitat Assessment Protocols (CHAP) evaluation, the Service has reservations about utilizing this method to determine replacement habitat types and quantities (e.g., mitigation ratio for a given habitat type due to impacts to a habitat type based on habitat quality, quantity, and temporal losses). The CHAP seems to evaluate habitat quality by measuring the number and function of species in a particular habitat. Additionally, CHAP seems to assume that habitats with a high number of species are of better quality than a similar habitat with less species diversity. The CHAP does not appear to quantify the importance of habitat types which may have low species diversity, but are highly important or critical to the species present for all or some element of the species life cycle. For example, mud flats have relatively low species diversity, but during migration periods have high usage by a few species of shorebirds.

Finally, the Service recommends that an endowment be established to provide for the long-term management and maintenance of the levees and any mitigation areas developed as part of this proposed action. The endowment should specifically cover costs associated with the management and removal of invasive species.

If you have any further questions please contact Mark Littlefield, Chief, Watershed Planning Branch, at (916) 414-6520.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Welsh', with a stylized, flowing script.

Daniel Welsh  
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc:

Joseph Terry, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, Sacramento, California  
Eric Mruz, Refuge Manager, Don Edwards NWR, Fremont, California  
William DeJager, San Francisco Corps of Engineers, San Francisco, California  
Judy Sheen, San Francisco Corps of Engineers, San Francisco, California  
Brenda Buxton, California Coastal Conservancy, Oakland, California





**To:** South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Team

**From:** Center for Collaborative Policy

**Re:** Outcomes from the October 20, 2011 Stakeholder Forum Meeting

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**Background:** The Stakeholder Forum (Forum) met on Thursday, October 20, 2011 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Alameda County Flood Control District offices in Hayward. The Forum is convened to provide ongoing input to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Management Team (PM Team) and its technical consultants on development and implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond restoration, flood management, and public access plan.

**Meeting Attendance:** Attachment 1 lists meeting participants.

**Meeting Materials:** In advance of the meeting, Forum members were provided a meeting agenda. At the meeting, Forum members received handouts including a printout of meeting slides, a Phase 2: Preliminary Options for Future Actions document, a condensed table of Adaptive Management Plan key uncertainties, a summary of highlights from the February 2011 SBSP Science Symposium, a roster and the 2010 meeting summary. The PowerPoint presentation slides, which give more details on presentations, and handouts are available on the SBSP Project website ([www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org)).

**Substantive Meeting Outcomes:**

***1. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review***

John Bourgeois, Executive Project Manager, welcomed Forum members and the public and led introductions. Lead facilitator Mary Selkirk reviewed the agenda, which included:

- Tracking our Progress: Highlights of 2011
- Tracking our Progress: Science in the Salt Ponds
- Phase 2: Selection of project-wide and pond-specific actions
- Phase 2 in Ravenswood
- Phase 2 in Eden Landing
- Phase 2 in Alviso
- Update on the Shoreline Study
- Looking Ahead to 2012

In regards to the entire Project area, he showed a map indicating areas with the ability to receive dredge or upland fill material. The Project could potentially opportunistically take advantage of millions of cubic feet of fill, as they are made available. This is another issue that will be looked at in Phase 2.

#### ***8. Update on the Shoreline Study***

Brenda Buxton of the State Coastal Conservancy, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, gave an update on the Project's related effort, the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study, which is being undertaken with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Army Corps of Engineers. The scope of the study was revised to focus on Alviso-area ponds, because of the amount of economic damage identified in an Army Corps analysis, and because Alviso is so subsided that there are health and human safety issues. Lastly, providing flood protection in the Alviso area will allow the Project to proceed with tidal restoration at a number of ponds. The timeline calls for having a proposal to Congress by the end of 2013. The study includes two components, flood risk management and ecosystem restoration.

For flood risk management, structural elements would join two points, Alviso Slough and Coyote Bypass, to prevent tidal flooding of the Alviso area. Alternative alignments have been developed for two stretches, from Alviso Slough to Artesian Slough, and from Artesian Slough to Coyote Bypass. The alignments, shown on PowerPoint slides, vary from being closer in to urbanized areas or farther out. Attendees of an Alviso Working Group meeting in August were less supportive of a close-in alignment, as it would cut off views and skirt close to homes. All levies would tie into the existing flood control network and make a complete link. For the railroads, two options include installing flood gates or raising the railroad. The latter option would be expensive.

For ecosystem restoration, the goal would be to undertake tidal restoration through phases, using a robust adaptive management process to ensure that restoration is not causing problems. Adaptive management would look at mercury, bird populations and scour issues. The conceptual approach would be to first build flood protection, then take advantage of historic sloughs, lower levees, build higher features and breach internal levees. Phasing would be over 30 years.

The study is making good progress.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

Q: Is the precise definition the area between Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River?

A: Yes.

Q: To what extent would you be going up those streams?

A: The study has a fluvial/tidal focus. There is already flood protection on Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River.

Q: But as you restore areas to tidal marsh, wouldn't you move upstream?

A: That's why we need the levee. My understanding is that the streams have a high level of protection.



Comment: The protection on the streams is under current conditions. So the shore will move upstream with sea level rise.

Al Gurevich of the Santa Clara Valley Water District said the fluvial protections have a level of protection acceptable to FEMA. Sea level rise will raise the water surface elevation. The District believes it has enough capacity to accommodate that. However, members of the public are right to raise questions about these issues. The district will keep watching these issues as it goes forward.

Q: I thought the ground had subsided 12 feet. Is there a plan to recharge the aquifer?

A: The subsided areas do not come back.

Pat Showalter of the Santa Clara Valley Water District said the District manages the area so that there is not further subsidence. The consistency of these peat areas is similar to oatmeal, and once the groundwater is removed, the fluff does not come back. The District does extensive recharge of more than 120,000 acre-feet per year as a water source and to maintain hydraulic pressure. She said members of the public are right that this is a major issue that the District continues to work on.

Q: There was flooding in Moffett Park in the 1990s. What is the relationship there? I wonder, do I need a levee?

A: The Army Corps did an economic analysis of four big drainage areas. Aside from Alviso, two were in Palo Alto and one focused on Moffett Field. The problem with that area was its federal ownership, a federal project benefiting another federal agency.

Comment: There is private land next to Moffett Field with millions of square feet of offices.

Response: The study focused specifically on Moffett Field. Just because there is a current focus on Alviso does not mean that we are going to ignore the other areas. We hope to have a success and then move on to the other areas.

## ***9. Looking Ahead to 2012***

John Bourgeois said project managers are thrilled with the success they've had in such a short period of time. That is a credit to all of the stakeholders and partners attending, and the interagency cooperation.

Immediate next steps will include hiring a consultant for Phase 2, which should occur during early 2012. Feasibility studies would take about one year. There will be more opportunities for input as project managers discover red flags and concerns that will be brought back to stakeholders. The studies would be followed by the permitting and CEQA process.

Meeting participants are invited to contact him with questions and concerns at [jbourgeois@coastalconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:jbourgeois@coastalconservancy.ca.gov). Lead Scientist Laura Valoppi is available at [laura\\_valoppi@usgs.gov](mailto:laura_valoppi@usgs.gov).

**Attachment 1: October 20, 2011 Meeting Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Affiliation</b>
Donna Ball	H.T. Harvey
Scott Bodensteiner	Weston Solutions
Carolynn Box	BCDC
Erika Castillo	ACMAD
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition
Evelyn Cormier	Ohlone Audubon, CCCR
Maureen Cruzen	NASA Ames
Cynthia Denny	Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter
Ron Duke	H.T. Harvey
Jim Foran	SCCOSA
Phil Gordon	Ohlone Audubon, HASCAC
Jill Hamilton	ESA
Jim Haussener	CMANC
Diane Heinze	Port of Oakland
Melisa Helton	USFWS
Carin High	CCCR
Ellen Johnck	
Jane Lavelle	SFPUC
Jeremy Lowe	ESA PWA
Libby Lucas	California Native Plant Society
Pat Mapelli	Cargill Salt
John Marchant	City of Mountain View
Ryan Mayfield	City of San Jose
Eileen McLaughlin	CCCR
Stacy Moscal	USGS
Jane Moss	Don Edwards docent
John Murray	Sen. Feinstein's Office
Chindi Peavey	San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement
John Rusmiser	ACMAD
Rohin Saleh	Alameda County Flood Control
Rich Santos	SCVWD
Howard Shellhammer	H.T. Harvey
Pat Showalter	SCVWD
Kirsten Struve	City of San Jose
Charles Taylor	Alviso
David Thomas	PG&E
Luisa Valiela	EPA
Dave Whittum	City of Sunnyvale
Simret Yigzaw	City of San Jose
Selim Zeyrek	ACWD

# Revised NOTICE OF PREPARATION

From: Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118

Subject: **Revised Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

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**Project Title:** South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Study

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2006012020

**Project Location:** South San Francisco Bay Shoreline between the Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek, San Jose, California.

This NOP updates the previously released joint NOP/NOI dated January 6, 2006 for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study. The revisions are related to changing the CEQA Lead Agency and adding detail to the proposed project description for the Alviso Ponds and Santa Clara County Interim Feasibility Study.


The Santa Clara Valley Water District will be the Lead Agency under CEQA and will prepare an environmental impact report for the above project. The District needs to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.


The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but **not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.**

Please send your response to: Michael Martin  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118  
(408) 630-3095  
michaelmartin@valleywater.org

Please provide the name of a contact person in your agency.

FOR   
Beatr Goldie  
Chief Executive Officer

  
Date

# **Revised Notice of Preparation Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Study Santa Clara County, California August 2014**

## **Introduction**

A joint NOP/NOI was circulated and a public meeting held in 2006 for the entire South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, which encompasses all of the bay shoreline in Santa Clara County and the southern portions of San Mateo and Alameda Counties and includes the Alviso, Ravenswood, and Eden Landing pond complexes. The project proponents have decided to move forward with a segment of the overall Shoreline Project for the area between the Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek in San Jose. This NOP is released to obtain comments on a project for the Phase I Study which is focused on this area.

A joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (hereafter referred to as the "EIR/S") will be prepared for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Study (Project). The document will identify and evaluate possible environmental impacts of Project alternatives, and develop strategies to avoid, reduce, or compensate for any significant impacts.

As the lead agency responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) has determined that the Project may have a significant impact on the physical environment, and has decided to prepare an EIR/S to provide ample opportunity for public disclosure and participation in the planning and decision making process. The purpose of the draft EIR/S process is to develop and assess a recommended plan and alternatives for the Project and to avoid and mitigate significant adverse effects on environmental resources, while aiming to achieve the primary project objectives.

This document, which serves as the Notice of Preparation (NOP) required by CEQA and the state's CEQA Guidelines (CCR §15082), contains a brief description of the Project, including its goals and objectives, the Project alternatives identified to date, possible environmental impacts, and the resulting need for an EIR/S. It also discusses the process that will be used to determine the scope of analysis in the EIR/S, and provides an overview of the opportunities for participation in review of the EIR/S, along with contact information.

## **Project Overview**

The District, as a local sponsor of the Project, is undertaking the environmental review process in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the federal sponsor, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the landowner. Pending the outcome of the environmental review process and any subsequent design revisions to improve the project, the proposed Project will be submitted to the District Board of Directors for their review and potential approval. This process is aimed to provide the public with a clear understanding of the activities, elements, and methods involved with the proposed Project. However, this project description does not presume that the proposed Project is considered approved, or will necessarily be approved until

the complete environmental and planning process occurs according to CEQA guidelines and internal District Project review and approval process. The State Coastal Conservancy is an additional local sponsor and will also need to approve the Project before it will proceed as a responsible agency under CEQA.

## **Background**

The Project area has considerable risk for tidal flooding due to low-lying terrain that is bordered by pond levees originally designed and constructed for commercial salt pond purposes rather than for flood risk management. The levees protecting these areas are mostly dikes that were created as early as the 1920s. The area south of the ponds is now nearly all urbanized with high-value development and includes transportation corridors, a wastewater plant, and other critical infrastructure. In addition, substantial sea level rise expected during the period of analysis for this study (2017–2067) will exacerbate risks from tidal flooding.

A second challenge is that the historic creation of extensive managed salt ponds in the South Bay, as well as filling of marshes and mudflats for landfills and development has resulted in the loss of most tidal salt marsh habitat in the area. In addition, degradation of remaining tidal marsh habitat from water pollution (now mostly abated), habitat fragmentation, and invasive plants has resulted in severe losses of habitat quantity and quality for salt marsh plants and wildlife leading to the listing of several species under the Endangered Species Act (both Federal and State) and severe losses of the ecosystem functions and services associated with tidal marshes and estuaries.

The Project proponents propose to reduce tidal flood risk in the area, which will also facilitate the tidal marsh restoration activity. Both flood risk management and ecosystem restoration are important to the local community and the larger South Bay area.

## **Goals and Objectives**

The investigation of the problems and opportunities in the study area led to the establishment of the following planning objectives:

- Reduce the risk to public health, human safety, and the environment due to tidal flooding along the South Bay shoreline in Santa Clara County.
- Reduce potential economic damages due to tidal flooding in areas near the South Bay shoreline in Santa Clara County.
- Increase contiguous tidal marsh to restore ecological function and habitat quantity, quality, and connectivity in the Study Area for native, resident plant and animal species, including special-status species such as steelhead trout, California clapper rail, and salt marsh harvest mouse.
- Provide opportunities for public access, education, and recreation in the Study Area.

## **Alternatives Being Considered**

A range of project element alternatives have been developed, including a No Project alternative, all of which will be discussed in the EIR/S. The project elements include:

## **Levee Segment**

Three levee alignments are considered between the Guadalupe River (at the Alviso Marina) and Artesian Slough. This levee would address flood risk to the community of Alviso and State Route 237, which is an important commuter corridor for Silicon Valley. The community of Alviso has a history of fluvial flooding from Guadalupe River, which is east of the community. As a result, many of the residential structures have been rebuilt or raised substantially so that the finished floor elevation is as much as 6 feet or more above the ground. Fluvial flood risk has been reduced through local and Federal projects. However, flood risk in the Alviso area is the highest of any area along San Francisco Bay because of subsidence from historical groundwater withdrawal to support the historical agricultural industry.

The three potential alignments include Alviso North, Alviso Railroad Spur; and Alviso South. The Alviso North alignment, which is located entirely on Refuge lands, would roughly follow the western and northern outer levees of the New Chicago Marsh along the existing margins of Ponds A12, A13, and A16. It would be the farthest from the community of Alviso, and extend flood risk management to the Marsh. The Alviso South alignment would follow the southwest outer levee of New Chicago Marsh and would be the closest to the community of Alviso. The Alviso Railroad Spur alignment would coincide with the Alviso North alignment on the western portion, follow the alignment of the existing railroad spur levee through the Marsh, and coincide with the Alviso South alignment at the eastern portion. This alignment would be located between the North and South alignments and be intermediate in distance from the community of Alviso.

A railroad gate would be constructed across the Union Pacific Railroad tracks where they cross the proposed levee. A tide gate is proposed across Artesian Slough to prevent water from overtopping existing levees along the slough during future high-tide events. From Artesian Slough to Coyote Creek the levee would follow the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) South alignment that runs west to east in a stair-step pattern along the north border of the existing WPCP infrastructure to the existing levee along the eastern side of Pond A18. A separate WPCP North alignment that partially bisects Pond A18 was determined to be infeasible.

## **Ecosystem Restoration**

The habitat restoration strategy is to convert the former salt ponds in front of the proposed levee into tidal wetlands through a phased restoration process guided by adaptive management. Currently, the managed ponds provide habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl, and the project proponents are committed to maintaining these populations. However, there is also a bay-wide goal to increase the acreage of tidal marsh and associated habitats. Without a project, the ponds would continue to be managed as ponds, potentially with some limited enhancement to support the species that currently use the ponds. Restoring the ponds without a flood control element would put inland areas at flood risk.

Restoration actions seek to establish vegetated tidal wetlands with goals of maximizing long-term habitat benefits, particularly in consideration of potential sea level rise. Two levels of restoration are considered; “basic,” which represents a baseline of actions needed to restore the ponds, and “accelerated,” which involves more direct intervention and additional actions above the basic level to speed up the restoration process.

## **Transitional Habitat**

Transitional habitat is defined as a transition area between two distinct habitats (in this case, tidal wetland and upland habitat on the levee). Transitional habitat can provide large expanses of habitat that have been missing from the Bay, attenuate waves and reduce wave run-up, and

increase habitat resiliency by providing space for marshes to retreat inland in the face of sea level rise. Three levels of transitional habitat are considered: 100:1 slopes, which would provide the most expansive habitat; 30:1 slopes; and a 50-foot-wide flat bench to provide a minimal amount of refugia immediately following construction.

### Recreation Measures

Recreation measures are included to provide additional recreation benefits associated with proposed ecosystem restoration features and to compensate for the loss of public access as the ponds in the Refuge are breached and restored to tidal marsh. The recreation measures include multi-use trails on top of the new proposed flood risk management levee with connection to the Bay Trail network, viewing platforms and benches, and trail upgrades to be made to an existing segment of the Bay Trail system along State Route 237.

## Preferred Alternative

The District preferred alternative would include engineered levees along the Alviso North and WPCP South alignments following existing levees built to protect against the 1-percent tidal event with anticipated sea level rise; a tide gate across Artesian Slough; “basic” restoration of Ponds A9, A10, A11, A12, A13, A14, A15, and A18; a transition habitat slope of 30:1; and the recreation measures. The flood protection components would be constructed between 2017 and 2020. Restoration of the ponds and recreation elements would take place between 2020 and 2031 with monitoring and adaptive management occurring throughout the period. See Figure 3.

Other alternatives to be evaluated in the EIR/S are shown below. The District preferred alternative is listed as “Alternative 3”.

### Alternatives To Be Evaluated in the EIR/S

Alternatives		Flood Risk Management		Ecosystem Restoration	
Alt #	Summary	Alignment	LOP	In-pond Preparation	Transitional Habitat
1	No Action	None	Existing	None	None
2	Alviso North with 4% ACE and Bench	North	25-year	Basic	50-foot-wide bench
3	Alviso North with 1% ACE and 30:1 Ecotone	North	100 year	Basic	Ecotone with 30:1 side slopes
4	Alviso Railroad with 1% ACE and Bench	Railroad Spur	100 year	Basic	50-foot-wide bench
5	Alviso South with 1% ACE and Bench	South	100 year	Basic	50-foot-wide bench

ACE= Annual Chance of Exceedance; LOP = Level of Protection;

## Topics to be Analyzed in the Draft EIR

Based on the proposed project’s potential for significant impacts on the environment, the District with the Corps will prepare a joint EIR/S. The EIR/S will serve to further assess the proposed project’s effects on the environment, to identify significant impacts, and to identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potentially significant environmental impacts. An

analysis of alternatives to the proposed project will also be included in the document. Topics to be analyzed in the EIR/S, include but are necessarily limited to the following: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural and paleontological resources, soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, recreation, transportation and traffic, and utilities. Responses received to this NOP may modify or add to the preliminary assessment of potential issues addressed in the EIR/S.

## Environmental Procedures

This NOP initiates the CEQA process through which the District in conjunction with the Corps and the USFWS will refine the range of issues and project alternatives to be addressed in the EIR/S. Comments are invited on the proposal to prepare the EIR/S and on the scope of issues to be included.

Please submit any comments within 30 days of receipt of this notice to Michael Martin, the District's environmental planner for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Study, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District (see *Contact Information* below). After the 30-day review period for the NOP is complete, a draft EIR/S will be prepared in accordance with CEQA, as amended (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.), the State Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA (CCR §15000 et seq.), and NEPA.

Once the draft EIR/S is completed, it will be made available for a minimum 45-day public review and comment period. Copies of the draft EIR/S will be sent directly to those agencies commenting on the NOP, and will also be made available to the public at a number of locations, including the District headquarters and public libraries in the area. Information about availability of the draft EIR/S will also be posted on the District's website (<http://www.valleywater.org>) and at the Shoreline Study's website (<http://www.southbayshoreline.org>).

## Contact Information

For further information, contact the following:

Michael Martin  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118-3686  
(408) 630-3095  
[Michaelmartin@valleywater.org](mailto:Michaelmartin@valleywater.org)

Additional information relevant to the project and the EIR/S can also be found at <http://www.valleywater.org> and <http://www.southbayshoreline.org>



Figure 1: Location Map

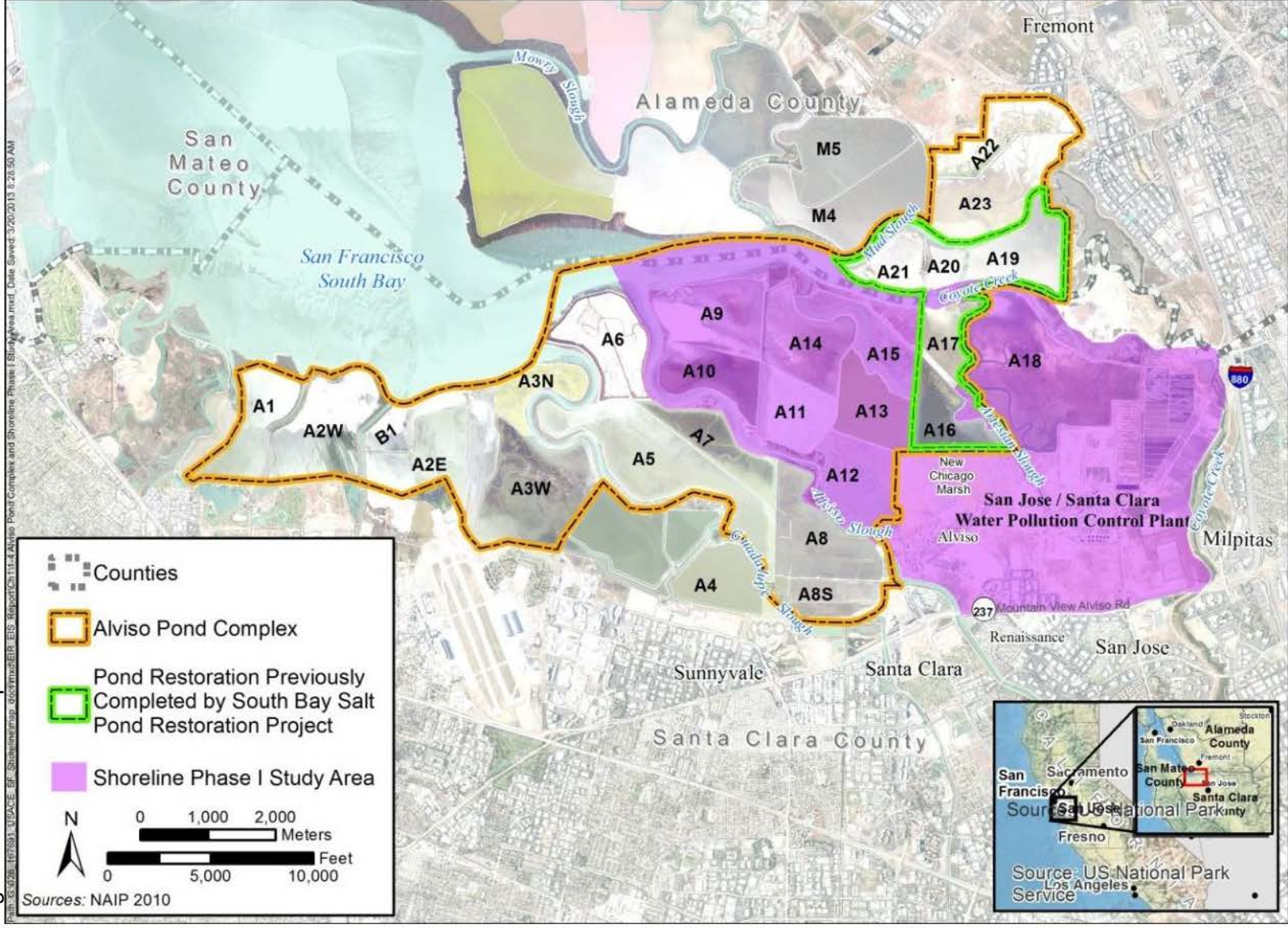




Figure 2: Alviso Levee Segment Alternatives

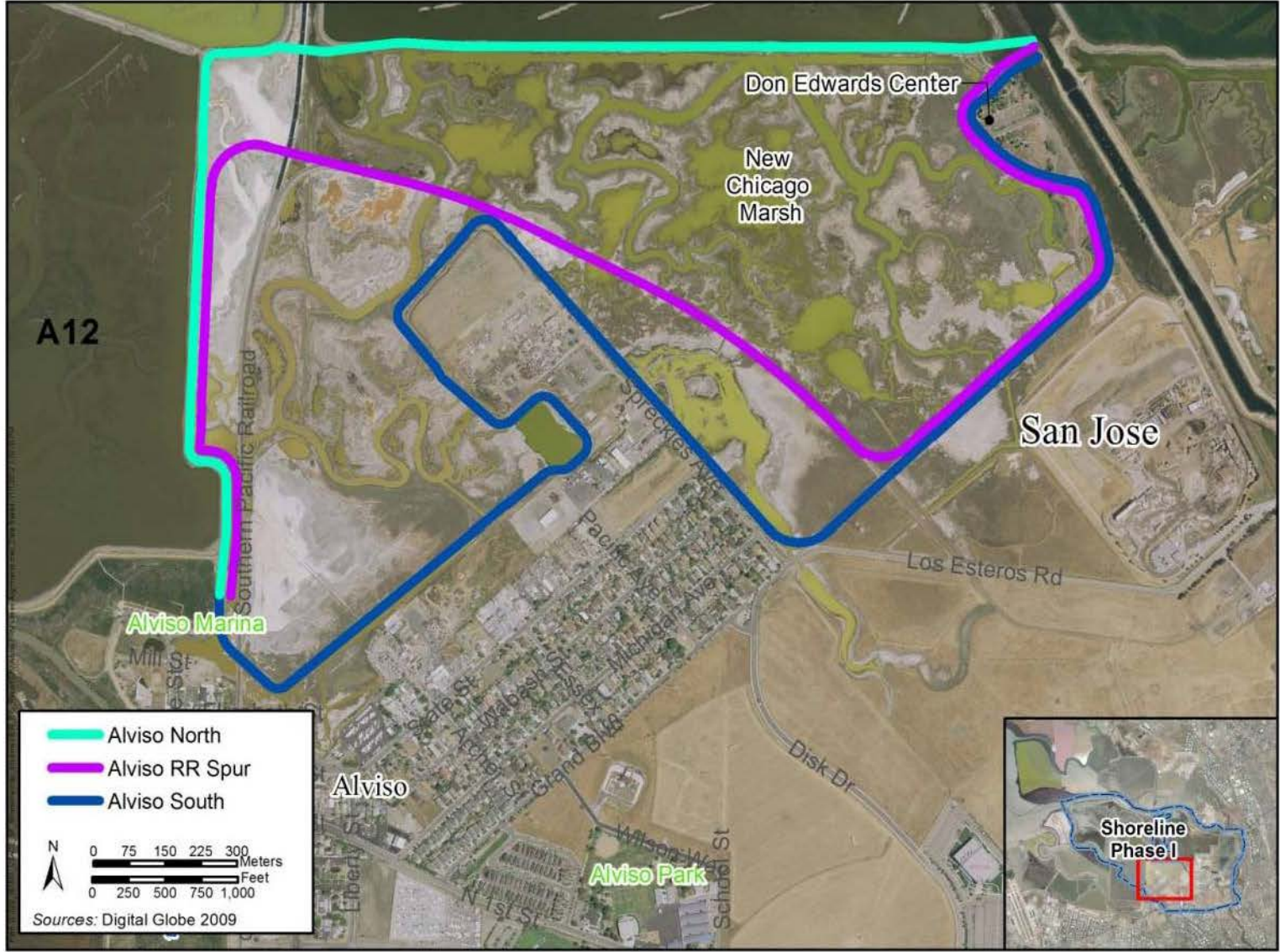
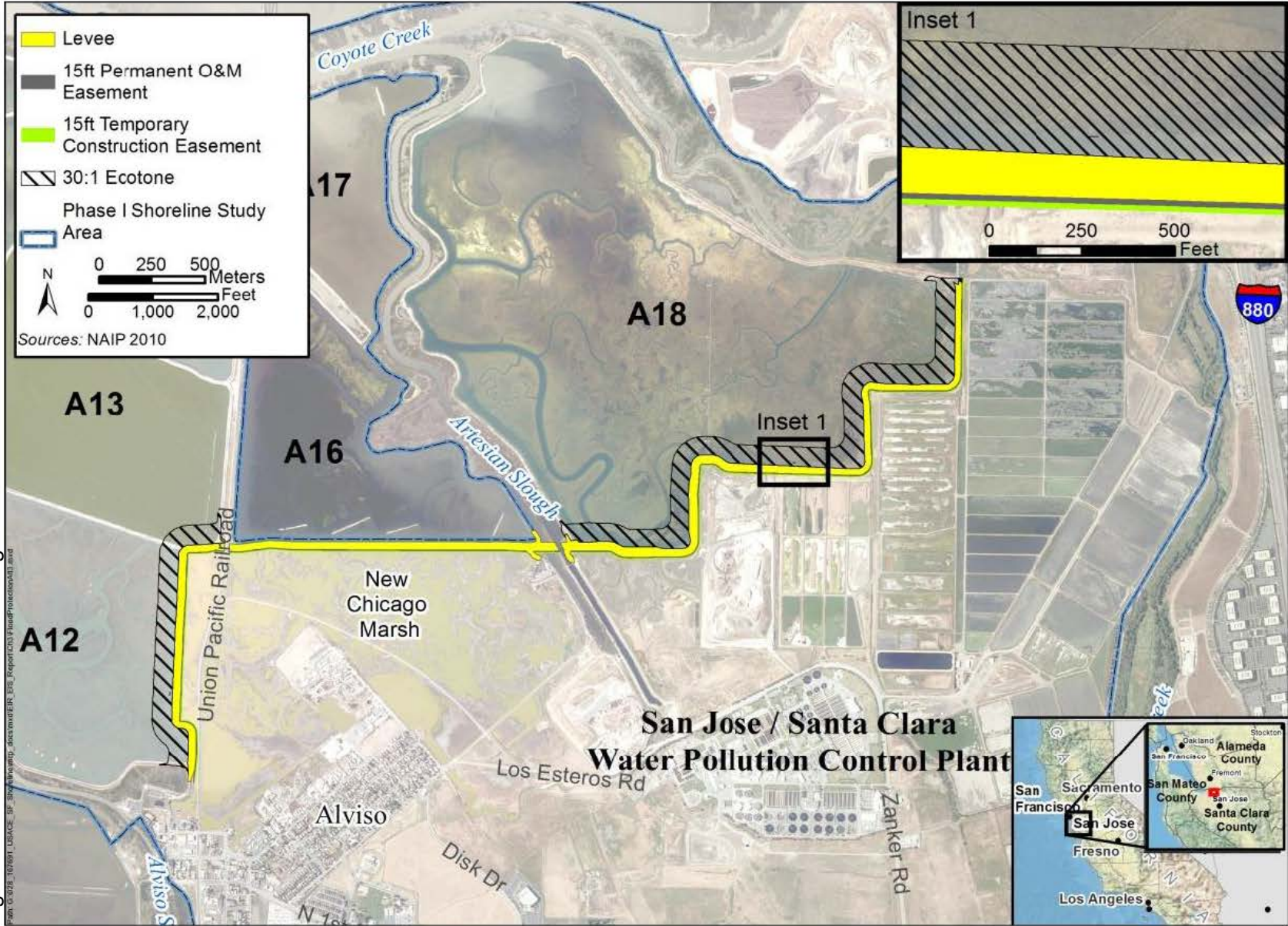




Figure 3: District Preferred Levee Alignment and Ecotone Alternative



**National Marine Fisheries Service**  
777 Sonoma Avenue, #325  
Santa Rosa, CA 97404

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,**  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
1455 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
2800 Cottage Way, W-2605  
Sacramento , CA 95825

**California Department of Fish and  
Game**  
7329 Silverado Trail  
Napa, CA 94558

**San Francisco Regional Water Quality  
Control Board**  
1515 Clay St, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Division of Boating and Waterway**  
One Capitol Mall - Suite 410  
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**California Emergency Management  
Agency**  
3650 Schriever Ave  
Mather, CA 95655

**Caltrans District 4**  
111 Grand Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Department of Conservation**  
801 K Street, MS 24-01  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Bay Conservation and Development  
Commission**  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Native American Heritage Commission**  
1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

**California State Coastal Conservancy**  
1330 Broadway 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

**California Natural Resources Agency**  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Office of Historic Preservation**  
1725 23rd Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816

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Control**  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**State Lands Commission**  
100 Howe Ave., Suite 100 South  
Sacramento, CA 95825

**Bay Area Air Quality Management  
District**  
939 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

**Department of Water Resources**  
1416 9th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Santa Clara County Planning Office**  
70 West Hedding  
San Jose, CA 95110

**Santa Clara County Vector Control  
District**  
1580 Berger Drive  
San Jose, CA 95112

**City of Milpitas**  
455 East Calaveras Blvd  
Milpitas, CA 95035

**City of San Jose - Planning Department**  
200 E. Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

**Santa Clara Valley Audubon**  
via email

**Sierra Club**  
via email

**Citizen's Committee to Complete the  
Refuge**  
via email

**Libby Lucas**  
via email

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jae	Abel	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Jay	Ach	Port of San Francisco
Hank	Ackerman	Alameda County Public Works Agency
Josh	Ackerman	USGS
Zach	Adamis	
Seth	Adams	
Maria	Adas	Eden Shores Community
William	Ahern	
Christina	Ahlers	
Scott	Akin	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Joy	Albertson	FWS - Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Regina	Alcomendras	Santa Clara County Clerk-Recorder
Chris	Alderete	NASA
		U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Nafisah	Ali	
Roger	Allan	USACE
Jim R.	Allison	BART-Capitol Corridor Planning Group
Diane	Althoff	East Bay Regional Park District
Teresa	Alvarado	SCVWD-EAC
Ariel	Ambruster	
Sioux	Ammerman	
Paul	Anderson	Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association
Daren	Anderson	City of Palo Alto, Community Service Dept.
Eric	Anderson	City of Mountain View
Laurel	Anderson	Santa Clara County
Shannah	Anderson	The Watershed Project
Rollie	Arbolante	Union Sanitary District
Gavin	Archbald	
Jon	Archer	Triton Marine Construction
Elaine	Archibald	Archibald & Wallberg Consultants
Emmy	Arcolino	Friends of Stevens Creek Trail
Louis	Armstrong	URS Corporation
Jim	Armstrong	
Tom	Armstrong	HMH Inc.
Deepa	Arora	Santa Clara University
Alisa	Arp	Romberg Tiburon Center
Rita	Artist	Port of Redwood City
Ruth	Askevold	SFEI
Kwablah	Attigobe	Alameda County Flood Control District
Craig	Aubrey	USFWS
Carrie	Austin	SF RWQCB
Erin	Austin	College of the Redwoods Honors Program
Mitch	Avalon	Contra Costa Flood Control District -Public Works Dept.
Debra	Ayers	UC Davis

James W.	Babcock, Ph.D.	Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.
Carol	Bach	Port of San Francisco
Thomas	Baily	URS Corporation
Ian	Bain	City of Redwood City
Greg	Baker	NOAA
Donna	Ball	Save The Bay
Grant	Ballard	
Robert	Bamford	
Patrick	Band	Save The Bay
Megha	Bansal	
Karen	Barr	Newscolor, LLC
Matthew	Barrows	Sacramento Bee
Debra	Bartons	Palo Alto Baylands Nature Center
Galli	Basson	SJSU
Bob	Batha	BCDC
Bob	Battalio	PWA
Lorenzo	Bavoso	CWA
Thomas	Bawden	USACE
Peter	Baye	
Andrew	Beahrs	
Gigi	Bealkowski	LifeScan, Inc.
Sarah	Beamish	Natural Heritage Institute
Josh	Bearman	VIMS
Robyn	Beavers	
Ginny	Becchine	Save Our South Bay Wetlands
Bern	Beecham	City of Palo Alto
Steve	Beissinger	UC Berkeley
Norton	Bell	FWS
Susan	Bell	Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
Frank	Benest	City of Palo Alto
Ande	Bennett	BCDC
Charles	Benton	
Sue	Berg	EBMUD
Bruce	Bernard	
Rhonda	Berry	Our City Forest
Greg	Betts	City of Palo Alto, Open Space Preserve
Anne-Marie	Beveridge	
Stephen	Bianchi	Shaw Environmental, Inc.
Jill	Bicknell	Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff PPP
Alan	Birnbaum	Fresno Audubon Society
Ned	Black	US EPA, Region 9
Henry	Blankenheim	
Maria	Blankenship	San Jose Public Library- Alviso Branch
Ron	Blatman	KTEH
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Vivian	Blomenkamp	League of Women Voters
Steve	Blomquist	Santa Clara County, Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese
Valary	Bloom	FWS
Doug	Bloyd	
Joyce	Blueford	Math Science Nucleus
Jill	Bluso	USGS/Humboldt State
Phil	Bobel	City of Palo Alto, Public Works Dept.
Scott	Bodensteiner	Weston Solutions Inc
Jacqueline	Bogard	Guadalupe Coyote RCD
Stan	Bogosian	City of Saratoga
Rachel	Bonnefil	Acta Environmental
Nancy	Borgeson	Friends of Bayfront Park
Del	Borgsdorf	City of San Jose
Patrycja	Bossak	ABAG
Brian	Bothun	Palo Alto Daily News
John	Bourgeois	California State Coastal Conservancy
Scott	Bourne	
P	Boursier	HT Harvey & Associates
Bill	Bousman	
John	Bowers	
Mark	Bowers	City of Sunnyvale
Dale	Bowyer	SF RWQCB
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Maziar	Bozorginia	City of East Palo Alto
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John	Bradley	Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
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Josh	Brandt	Urban Creeks Council
Andree	Breaux	SF RWQCB
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Tim	Brewer	
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Jerry A.	Bridges	Port of Oakland
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Bill	Britt	Cargill Salt
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Jack	Broadbent	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
John	Brosnan	Sonoma Land Trust
Betty	Brown	AWTF
Cindy	Brown	USGS
Kent	Brown	City of San Jose
Brian	Bruha	
Bill	Bruin	HAN-PADRON ASSOCIATES, LLP
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Gwen	Buchholz	CH2M Hill
Ann	Buell	Coastal Conservancy
Joanna	Bullock	ABAG
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Shelia	Canzian	City of San Mateo
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Len	Cardoza	Weston Solutions Inc
Jim	Carlton	Wall Street Journal
Edward	Carpenter	Romberg Tiburon Center
Kelly	Carrol	West Valley Clean Water Program
James	Carroll	Asian Week
Steve	Carroll	Ducks Unlimited
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Heather	Chase	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Larry	Cheeves	City of Union City
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Nelson	Chen	Menlo High School
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John	Cherbone	City of Saratoga
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Ken	Chiang	S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates
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Vincent	Chiu	
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Ann	Chrisney	Riparian Habitat Joint Venture
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Dean	Chu	City of Sunnyvale
Councilmember	Chu	City of San Jose
Mark	Church	San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
Richard	Cimino	
Carl	Claras	
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Michael	Closson	Acterra
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Frank	Codd	Alameda County Public Works Agency
Ellie	Cohen	Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Jackie	Cohen	
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Mike	Connor	East Bay Dischargers Authority
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Patty	Cook	Jones & Stokes
Ann	Coombs	League of Women Voters
Rick	Cooper	San Francisco Planning Department
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LaDoris	Cordell	City of Palo Alto
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	Dinwiddie-	
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Benjamin	Elias	City of Union City
Wendy	Eliot	Sonoma Land Trust
Ashley	Elliott	Aquarium of the Bay
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Lee	Ellis	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Bob	Emert	San Mateo County Bridge Trails Committee
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Jeffrey	Englander	
Theresa	Engle	USF/SFSU
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Michael	Erwin	University of Virginia
Brad	Esser	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
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A. Peter	Evans	City of East Palo Alto
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Carole	Foster	
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William	Frankeberger	
Amy	Franz	SFEI
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Vicki	Frey	DFG

Bill	Frey	
Carl	Friedrichs	VIMS
Roger	Fujii	USGS
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Jim	Fuller	Boy Scouts
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Dyesha	Gardner	Santa Clara Valley Water District
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Nick	Garrity	PWA
Linda	Gass	
Tim	Gasser	One-to-One Tutoring Service
Kimble	Gause	Citizen
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Susan	Gearhart	Nat.Res/Water Board Chair
Robert	Gearheart	Humboldt State University
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Mike	Giari	Port of Redwood City
Rose Jacobs	Gibson	San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
Kathryn E.	Gies	West Yost & Associates
Crisand	Giles	Home Builders Association, South Bay
Eric	Gillies	State Lands Commission
Debbie	Girodano	City of Milpitas
Richard	Givens	
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Nicole	Goebel	Ocean Sciences
Brenda	Goeden	BCDC
Ernie	Goitein	People for Livable and Affordable Neighborhoods (P.L.A.N.)
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Fritts	Golden	Aspen Environmental Group
Beau	Goldie	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Charles	Goldman	Tahoe Research Group
Paul	Goldstein	Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
Armando	Gomez	City of Milpitas
Erika	Gomez	CH2M Hill
Peter	Goodwin	University of Idaho
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Pat	Gordon	Ohlone Audubon Society
Richard	Gordon	San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
James	Gorham	CH2M Hill
Sharon	Gosselin	Alameda County Clean Water Program
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Sue	Graham	League of Women Voters
Stephen	Granholt	LSA Associates, Inc.
Steve	Granholt	LSA Associates, Inc.
Jim	Grant	Fugro West, Inc.
Ruth	Gravanis	Sierra Club
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Frank	Green	Lake Merritt Breakfast Club
Greg	Green	Ducks Unlimited
Mark	Green	City of Union City
Andree	Greenberg	Regional Water Quality Control Board
Matt	Greene	
Ben	Greenfield	SFEI
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Philip	Greer	WRA, Inc.
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Mark	Grismer	UC Davis
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Cristina	Grosso	
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Brad	Hall	Northwest Hydraulics
Craig	Hall	Treadwell & Rollo, Inc.
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Meredith	Hall	UC Berkeley
Tom	Hall	EOA, Inc.
Jon	Hallberg	
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William	Hamersky	Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District
Jill	Hamilton	ESA
Srinivas	Hanabe	
Doyle	Hanan	Hanan & Associates, Inc.
Toby	Hanes	Hydro Science
Marcia	Hanscom	Sierra Club
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Chuck	Hanson	Hanson Environmental, Inc.
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Katrina	Harrison	
Frances	Harte	Student Conservation Association
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Kara	Hass	East Bay Regional Park District
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David	Hayes	Coastal Conservancy
Tim	Hayes	City of San Jose
Kerry	Haywood	MPBTA
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Jerry	Heinrichs	
Ross	Heitkamp	Friends of Stevens Creek Trail
Mark	Helvey	NOAA -National Marine Fisheries Service
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Kathleen	Henderson	USGS/WERC
Michael	Henderson	
Margaret	Henderson	Questa Engineering Corporation
Peg	Henderson	National Park Service
Mark	Hendren	
Paul	Henige	Sequoia Analytical Laboratory
Mark	Hennelly	California Waterfowl Association
Olden	Henson	City of Hayward
Eric	Hentschke	
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Tim	Hilleary	Tim Hilleary Construction
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Joseph	Hilson	City of Hayward
Ellen	Hines	San Francisco State University
Jan	Hintermeister	San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory
Amy	Hiss	CH2M Hill
Andrew	Ho	NASA
Jim	Hobbs	UC Davis
Gregory	Hoffman	
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John	Hollingsworth	
Linda	Holm	USACE
Karen	Holman	City of Palo Alto Councilmember
Marc	Holmes	Bay Institute
Rob	Holt	
Barbara	Holzman	San Francisco State University
Carl	Honaker	Santa Clara County Airports
Michael	Hoover	FWS
Randy	Hopkins	PG&E

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Joshua	Hoyt	
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Stephanie	Hughes	City of Palo Alto, Public Works Dept.
Beth	Huning	San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Lisa	Hunt	URS Corporation
Lee	Huo	ABAG
Amy	Hutzel	Coastal Conservancy
Jamil	Ibrahim	MWH
J	Imberger	University of Western Australia
Nancy	Immekeppel	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Steven	Inn	Alameda County Water District
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Judy	Irving	Pelican Media
Dale	Jacques	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Bruce	Jaffe	USGS
Robert	Jakovina	
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Kristal	Janes	
Anne	Janzer	
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Navroop	Jassal	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Kanwal	Jaswal	
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Ken	Johnson	Eden Shores Community
Leslie	Johnson	The Nature Conservancy

Linn	Johnson	Marine Mammal Center
Lori	Johnson	Cargill Salt
Michael	Johnson	Kleinfelder
Travis	Johnson	
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Dave	Johnston	H.T. Harvey & Associates
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Gary	Jones	Applied Materials Inc.
Paul	Jones	US EPA
Rosemary	Jorde	Acterra
Greg	Jose	Art Anderson Associates
Michael	Josselyn	Wetlands Research Associates, Inc.
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Marilyn	Latta	State Coastal Conservancy
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Jerry	Lawrence	
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Brian	Lee	San Mateo County
Therese	Lee	
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Susan	Lee	Aspen Environmental Group
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Robb	Leidy	US EPA
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John	Maltbie	San Mateo County
Rocco	Mancinelli	SETI Institute
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Jim	McDermott	
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Mike	Miller	
George	Miller	H of Reps - 7th District
Hugh	Miller	Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program

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I-Wen	Tsai	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Moses	Tsang	Alameda County Public Works Agency
John	Tsingos	USACE -S. Pacific Div.
Kazuya	Tsurushita	WRECO
David	Tucker	City of San Jose
Janeen	Tuitupou	Marine Science Institute
Dale	Turner	Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
Mari	Tusten	
Claire	Tyler	
Carol	Tyler	
Gerry	Uenaka	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Carlos	Valencia	Jensen Corp./Jensen Landscape Services Inc.
Luisa	Valiela	US EPA, Region 9
Ivan	Valiela	Boston University, Marine Biological Program
Richard	Valle	City of Union City
Laura	Valoppi	USGS
Holly	VanHouten	Bay Area Ridge Trail
Jesus	Vargas	Concept Marine Associates
Mike	Vasey	San Francisco State University
Pete	Veilleux	Friends of Sausal Creek
Patty	Velez	DFG
Robert	Venticinque	
Andria	Ventura	Clean Water Fund
Sara	Vickerman	Defenders of Wildlife
Amber	Vierling	
Larry	Vinzant	Federal Highway Administration
Susanne	von Rosenberg	GAIA Consulting, Inc.
David	Von Rueden	CH2M Hill
	Wainwright-De	
Susan E.	La Cruz	USGS, Western Ecological Research Center
Jeff	Waldman	CA Air National Guard
Robert	Walker	City of Sunnyvale
Michael	Walkowiak	CH2M Hill
Josh	Wallaert	
Ellis A	Wallenberg III	Treadwell & Rollo, Inc.
Walter	Wallis	Wallis Engineering
Ann	Waltonsmith	City of Saratoga
Jim	Wang	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Kristin	Ward	Crissy Field Wetlands Project

Caroline	Warner	San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Nils	Warnock	Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Sara	Warnock	Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Michael	Wasmann	
Bob	Wasserman	City of Fremont
Jeff	Watanabe	
Catherine	Waterston	Peninsula Open Space Trust
Jennifer	Watson	
Dick	Wayman	Coastal Conservancy
Renee	Webber	Sonoma County Water Agency
Agnes	Weber	Vali Cooper & Associates, Inc.
Wendy	Webster	
Don	Weden	
Gary	Weinreich	City of Palo Alto, Public Works Department
Julie	Weiss	City of Palo Alto, Public Works Dept.
Kim	Wells	H.T. Harvey & Associates
Eric	Werwa, Ph.D.	Rep. Mike Honda's office
Sabrina	West	
Kirk	Wheeler	Schaaf & Wheeler
Sean	White	Sonoma County Water Agency
Heather	White	SJSU
Kay	Whitlock	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Keith	Whitman	Santa Clara Valley Water District
David	Whittum	City of Sunnyvale
Jason	Wiener	
Cindy	Wilber	Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve
Carl	Wilcox	DFG
Cliff	Williams	City of Milpitas
Dan	Williams	City of Palo Alto, Community Service Dept.
Christina	Williams	
Phil	Williams	PWA
Stan	Williams	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Roland P.	Williams Jr.	Castro Valley Sanitary District
Leena	William-Townsy	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Joseph	Willingham	California Native Plant Society -EB Chapter
Steve	Willoughby	PG&E
Eric	Willyerd	Hayward Area Recreation and Park District
Barry	Wilson	UC Davis
Lisa	Windham-Myers	USGS
Brian	Wines	Regional Water Quality Control Board
Bobbie	Winn	DFG -Project Wild
Mary	Wisnewski	
Lindsey	Wolf	City of San Jose
Bruce	Wolfe	SF RWQCB
Rosaline	Wong	SRI International

Isa	Woo	USGS
J	Wood	
John	Woodbury	Bay Area Open Space Council
Kevin	Woodhouse	City of Mountain View
Don	Woodrow	USGS
David E.	Woods	City of East Palo Alto
David	Woodson	USGS
Cheryl	Woodward	Acterra
Claire	Woolf	
Jack	Word	MEC Analytical Systems Inc.
Ian	Wren	Baykeeper
Rose	Wright	
Katherine	Wright	
Frank	Wu	USACE
Pamela	Wu	Santa Clara County Planning Office
Larry	Wyckoff	DFG
Ed	Wylie	USACE -SF District
Linda	Xiques	Pacific Sun
David	Yang	CSU-East Bay
Yungnane	Yang	
Greg	Yarris	
John J.	Yeakel	USACE
Simret	Yigzaw	City of San Jose
Steve	Yoshino	City of Santa Clara
Jake	Young	
Laura	Young	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Sarah	Young	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Karl	Zabel	H.A.R.D.
Annie	Zacanti	
Nayer	Zahiri	San Mateo County MVCD
John	Zentner	Zentner and Zentner
Selim	Zeyrek	Alameda County Water District
David	Zinniker	Stanford University
Bob	Zlomke	Napa County RCD
Gregory	Zlotnick	Santa Clara Valley Water District
		City of San Jose, Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood
Yves	Zsutty	Services
		Castro Valley Sanitary District
		The Regional Water Quality Control Plant
		San Jose Public Library- Calabazas Branch
		San Jose Public Library- Evergreen Branch
		San Jose Public Library- Hillview Branch
		US EPA, Office of Clean Water Act Compliance
		NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE Commission
		San Jose Public Library- Santa Teresa Branch





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**1455 MARKET ST.**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-1398**

December 9, 2014

Planning Branch (1105)

Ms. Carol Roland-Nawi  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Ms. Roland-Nawi,

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, I request your comments on the South San Francisco Bay (South Bay) Shoreline Study an undertaking by the San Francisco District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The South Bay Shoreline Study is a flood-risk-management and ecosystem restoration project being performed through an integrated Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement. This study will address flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, recreation, and other related project purposes in the study area. The project is currently being implemented under a partnership between USACE and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which is the non-Federal sponsor. The final report is scheduled for release in December 2014. At that time, USACE will provide the document to all consulting parties and interested individuals for consultation purposes.

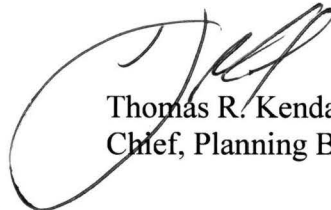
The study area comprises the Alviso Salt Ponds complex and adjacent community of Alviso, Santa Clara County, which is located in South San Francisco Bay on the northern border of the City of San José. The Draft Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement/ Report include the findings of an archaeological study (Enclosure) that evaluated cultural resources for their eligibility to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Our analysis determined that historic properties are located adjacent to the project Area of Potential Effects (APE). If historic properties may be adversely affected measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects will be recorded in the Record of Decision (ROD) or stipulated in an agreement document.

The Section 106 guidelines (36 CFR Section 800.8(c) of the National Historic Preservation Act) allows the "use of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for Section 106 purposes." This guidance authorized agencies to use an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) to comply with Section 106 in lieu of the procedures in 36 CFR 800.3 through 36 CFR 800.6 (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Handbook on Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act 2013).

The USACE concluded that the research and archaeological survey were the appropriate level of study for this undertaking, and that this work with additional documentation, specified at 36 CFR 800.11, constitutes a "good-faith" effort to identify historic properties [36 CFR 800.4(a) and 800.4(b)(1)]. Additional documentation will be provided under separate cover. Consequently, USACE has made a finding of "no historic properties are adversely affected" [36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)].

Kathleen Ungvarsky, the project archaeologist, is available to answer questions. She can be reached at (415) 503-6842 or [kathleen.ungvarsky@usace.army.mil](mailto:kathleen.ungvarsky@usace.army.mil). We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TK', is written over the typed name and title.

Thomas R. Kendall, P.E.  
Chief, Planning Branch

Enclosure



**Topic: South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase 1 Project**

**What:** The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase 1 Project (Project) would implement tidal flood risk management for the urban area of north San Jose including the community of Alviso and the San Jose/Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility and ecosystem restoration of approximately 3,000 acres of former salt pond for the area between Alviso Slough and Coyote Creek. All construction activities would be limited to the existing pond levees and ponds within these areas.

**Why:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the lead agency under NEPA, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District as the lead agency under CEQA, have prepared a Draft Integrated General Reevaluation Report/ Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (GRR/EIS/EIR) to evaluate environmental impacts of the proposed Project. Results of the evaluation indicate that the proposed project have potential for significant effects on environmental and cultural resources including: geology and soils, land use, hydrology and water quality, botanical resources, hazards and hazardous materials, air quality and greenhouse gases, aesthetics, noise, and cultural resources. The majority of impacts were determined to be less than significant after the implementation of mitigation measures. The Project could have significant unavoidable impacts from land use incompatibility, loss of habitat in New Chicago Marsh, visual impacts from Alviso, alteration of the Alviso Salt Ponds Historic Landscape, loss of pond habitat by pond-specialist bird species, and construction related impacts to air quality and noise even after implementation of mitigation measures.

**Public Review:** The Draft GRR/EIS/EIR will be available for public review and comment at the Water District (5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118) starting **December 19, 2014**. A copy of the document will also be available at the Alviso Branch Library (5050 N. First Street, Alviso, CA 95002) and the Milpitas Public Library (160 North Main Street, Milpitas, CA 95035). It can also be accessed online at: <http://www.valleywater.org/PublicReviewDocuments.aspx> and <http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Library/FreedomofInformationAct/FOIAHotTopics.aspx>. Comment must be submitted no later than by the end of the public comment period at 5 p.m. on February 2, 2015.

**Public Hearing:** In conjunction with public review, a public hearing to take comments on the GRR/EIS/EIR will be held on January 14, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. at the George Mayne Elementary School (5030 N. First Street, Alviso, CA 95002).

**Contact:** Comments on the Draft GRR/EIS/EIR should be submitted via mail or electronically, by **5 p.m. on February 2, 2015**, to:

Mr. Bill DeJager  
1455 Market Street  
San Francisco, California 94103

For further information please contact **Bill DeJager** at **415-503-6866**, or by email at **[william.r.dejager@usace.army.mil](mailto:william.r.dejager@usace.army.mil)**



Public notice/Notice of Availability

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (DEIS/DEIR)**  
(State Clearinghouse No. 2006012020)



US Army Corps  
of Engineers -  
San Francisco District



**You are invited**

**Topic:** South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase 1 Project

**Who:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
State Coastal Conservancy

**What:** Availability and public hearing on the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/ Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (FR/EIS/EIR) for this project

**When:** Wednesday January 14, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Place:** George Mayne Elementary School, 5030 N. First Street, Alviso, CA 95002

The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase 1 Project (Project) would implement tidal flood risk management for the urban area of north San Jose including the community of Alviso and the San Jose/Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility, and ecosystem restoration of approximately 3,000 acres of former salt pond for the area between Alviso Slough and Coyote Creek. All construction activities would be limited to the close vicinity of existing pond berms and ponds within these areas. Temporary easements would be acquired for access and staging areas.

This Draft FR/EIS/EIR has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The document was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and is available to interested parties for review and comment pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and the CEQA Guidelines.

The Draft FR/EIS/EIR evaluates the potential effects of the proposed action on the environmental resources in the project area. Results of the evaluation indicate that the proposed project has potential for significant effects on environmental and cultural resources including: geology and soils, land use, hydrology and water quality, botanical resources, hazards and hazardous materials, air quality and greenhouse gases, aesthetics, noise, and cultural resources. The majority of impacts were determined to be less than significant after the implementation of mitigation measures. The Project could have significant unavoidable impacts from land use incompatibility, loss of habitat in New Chicago Marsh, visual impacts from Alviso, alteration of the Alviso Salt Ponds Historic Landscape, loss of pond habitat by pond-specialist bird species, and construction related impacts to air quality and noise even after implementation of mitigation measures.

The Draft FR/EIS/EIR is being circulated for public and agency information, involvement, and comment for a 45-day period. Copies of the Draft FR/EIS/EIR are available online at

<http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Library/FreedomofInformationAct/FOIAHotTopics.aspx> and

<http://www.valleywater.org/PublicReviewDocuments.aspx>, or can be viewed at the following locations:

- Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5759 Almaden Expressway , San Jose, CA 95118
- Alviso Branch Library, 5050 N. First Street, Alviso, CA 95002

- Milpitas Public Library, 160 North Main Street, Milpitas, CA 95035

The Corps and the local partners will host a public meeting to discuss the Shoreline Phase 1 Project, and encourage public questions and comments on the project. The meeting will be held on Wednesday January 14, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the George Mayne Elementary School, 5030 N. First Street, Alviso, CA 95002.

The public review period for this Draft FR/EIS/EIR begins on December 19, 2014 and closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2015. Printed copies of the report are available upon request. All comments received on this draft document will be considered and incorporated into the Final FR/EIS/EIR, as appropriate.

If you are not able to attend the public hearing but would like to provide written comments for consideration, any comment must be submitted no later than **Monday, February 2, 2015 at 5 p.m.** Specific responses to the comments will be included in an appendix in the final document. Please send any comments to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Attn: Mr. Bill DeJager, 1455 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103. If you have any questions, Mr. DeJager may be reached at (415) 503-6866 or by e-mail at: [william.r.dejager@usace.army.mil](mailto:william.r.dejager@usace.army.mil)